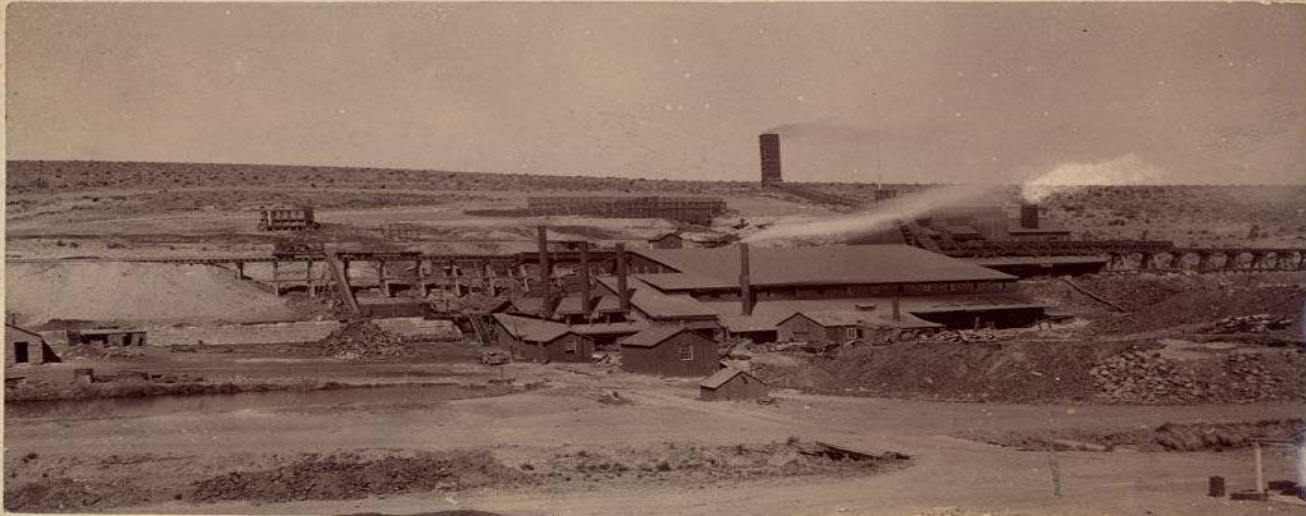


EPA Presentation Eureka Smelter Site



Property of Special Collections Dept., Univ. of Nevada, Reno Library

Fred Stroud
EPA Environmental Response Team

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EPA Role in Eureka

- EPA Emergency Response Program is providing support to NDEP and NV State Health Division
- EPA has a broad range of technical and financial resources that can be accessed
- EPA has experience working at similar sites in other States, including Utah, Colorado and Montana

Soil Sampling Program

- Previous data collected this Spring shows elevated levels of lead and arsenic in soil
- Contamination is present at former smelter sites, but also appears to be present at other locations in town
- Additional sampling is needed to define extent of contamination


Soil Sampling Program Goals

- Define extent of contamination on residential, commercial and vacant properties
- Define extent of contamination at schools, playgrounds and parks
- Define extent of contamination aerial contamination (how far outside of town does contamination extend)
- Define background levels (what are naturally occurring levels in this part of NV)

Soil Sampling Program Goals

- EPA would like to sample as many properties as possible
- Sampling of all properties could be completed within a few weeks of starting
- Sampling would occur at no cost to property owner
- Results will be provided in writing to the property owner within 4-6 weeks

Soil Sampling Access Agreements

- 
- **Need permission of property owner to collect sample**
 - **Request that access agreement be returned to EPA by August 10**
 - **Access agreements are available**
 - **After the meeting**
 - **At blood lead testing location**
 - **EPA and NDEP web pages**

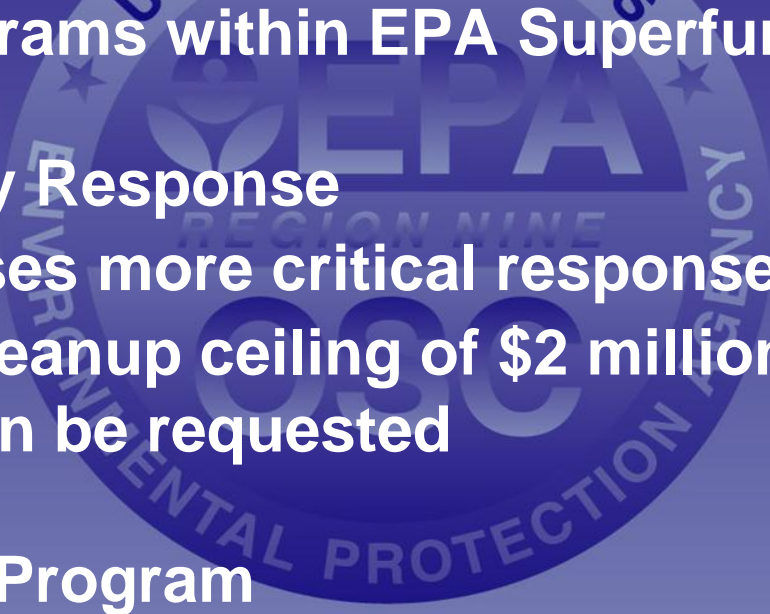
Soil Sampling Logistics

- Would take about one hour to sample each property
- Property owner need not be present
- Would use hand tools only to make a number of holes (up to 6 inches wide and 2 feet deep)
- Holes would be backfilled

What Happens if Contamination is Found?

- EPA, NDEP, State Health and local officials would consult about the best path forward
- At other similar sites, contaminated soil has either been removed or covered
- If cleanup is necessary, permission of the property owner is required
- If EPA conducts the cleanup, there is no cost to the property owner

Could this become a Superfund Site

- 
- Two programs within EPA Superfund program
 - Emergency Response
 - Addresses more critical responses
 - Has a cleanup ceiling of \$2 million, although more can be requested
 - Remedial Program
 - Has access to larger funding amounts
 - Requires site be placed on National Priorities List - “Superfund List”

Bottom Line

- Lead and arsenic can potentially cause significant health risks
- We all need to better understand the extent of lead and arsenic contamination in town
- In order to conduct soil sampling we need your permission and support

Contacts

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